VZCZCXYZ0016 PP RUEHWER

DE RUEHPE #1690 2951411 ZNY CCCCC ZZH P 211411Z OCT 08 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9469 INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY 2043 RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY 6076 RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 7952 RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 3492 RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 1246 RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ OCT 5003 RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY 9595 RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 2130 RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY 2035 RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA PRIORITY 0042 RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL LIMA 001690

## SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/22/2018

TAGS: EAID PREL CU

SUBJECT: CUBA DEMARCHE: USG DISASTER RELIEF OFFER

REF: SECSTATE 105422

Classified By: DCM James Nealon for reasons 1.4(c) and (d).

(C) PolCouns on October 20 delivered reftel demarche regarding unconditional US hurricane relief assistance for Cuba to Gonzalo Zapater, MFA Director General for Mexico and the Caribbean. Zapater said that he regularly meets with Cuban Embassy officials and would communicate a message in support of the U.S. offer. He added, however, that Cuban diplomats had visited him the previous week and explained that the GOC had rejected US humanitarian assistance because of US "conditions," without specifying what these alleged conditions were. Polcouns reiterated that the offer of US emergency post-hurricane aid was unprecedented and without conditions. Zapater noted that the Cubans also claimed the USG would not allow them to purchase necessary goods directly from the US market.

MCKINLEY